

former GM facility, creating hundreds of new jobs throughout the region.

I want to congratulate the mayor, city council and city manager and economic director of Moraine for this great accomplishment and teamwork. They rallied the community behind this resource.

Congratulations to the leadership in Moraine. It was great working with you on this project.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY IS NEEDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the need for accountability and action in the Department of Veterans Affairs. I urge my colleagues to sign on to a letter I have written the Secretary that follows up my call on May 6 for a nationwide audit of all veteran medical facilities.

While the VA has stated that an audit is currently under way, I am very concerned about testimony in last week's Senate Veterans Affairs hearing. In that hearing, it was suggested that the audit under way may not be as thorough and comprehensive as what I called for.

I do not believe that a thorough, in-depth examination of patient scheduling in every VA facility can be accomplished in just a few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, if we are dealing with a serious, systemic problem, then this audit is critical. We need a thorough and comprehensive review of scheduling practices at every VA medical facility. Anything less would be a disservice to our veterans who deserve a health care system they can trust.

#### CONGRATULATING THE RUN NOW RELAY TEAM OF CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Run Now Relay team of Cleveland, Tennessee. Run Now Relay ran more than 1,000 miles—from Cleveland to Boston—to support and raise money for the victims of the Boston bombings.

These extraordinary men and women ran nonstop through eight States in just over a week. Together, they surpassed their goal of \$50,000, raising more than \$63,000 for those impacted by the tragedy in Boston last year.

The Run Now Relay team pledged 100 percent of the funds to the One Step Ahead Foundation, which aids the children who underwent amputation because of the bombing; and Dream Big, a nonprofit dedicated to helping underprivileged girls through sports.

The team stopped in Washington last week, and my office had the pleasure of meeting with these remarkable folks. Thank you for sharing your mission with us.

Run Now Relay truly exemplifies the great volunteer tradition that defines the State of Tennessee, and I commend the group on their spirit and commitment to honor the victims of the Boston bombings.

They certainly illustrate the best of our great country. We are one Nation.

#### EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to remind my Republican colleagues that there are over 2.8 million Americans who have been cut off from unemployment insurance benefits since December 28, 2013.

We are back here in session for 2 weeks, the Senate has worked and passed a measure to renew unemployment insurance, yet Speaker BOEHNER refuses to bring up a bill.

Why, Mr. Speaker?

One of those 2.8 million Americans is Mitch from Nevada. He is 55 and lost his job of 8 years in March of 2013. Since his unemployment insurance ended, he has sold many of his belongings just to stay in his house and to feed his family.

Mitch is a Republican, but more importantly, he is an American, and he is pleading for congressional leaders to not turn their backs on him.

For all struggling Nevadans, I want you to know that we have not forgotten about you.

Mr. Speaker, schedule a vote to extend unemployment insurance benefits to the 2.8 million Americans, the 37,000 Nevadans.

My time may have expired, but it is more important that the unemployment insurance benefits that has expired be extended.

#### IMPRISONMENT OF SONIA GARRO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out for Sonia Garro, a member of the pro-democracy group, Las Damas de Blanco—the Ladies in White—who has languished in one of Castro's prisons for over 2 years.

Her case is one of many that demonstrates the dismal condition of human rights under the Castro tyranny in my native homeland of Cuba.

In 2012, Sonia and the Ladies in White sought an audience with the Pope, but, unfortunately, were imprisoned in the wave of repression leading up to the visit of His Holiness.

I, along with many of our congressional colleagues, have asked Amnesty

International to designate Sonia as a prisoner of conscience. The Castros cannot tolerate dissent and use violence to silence calls for democracy by beating and imprisoning dissenting voices.

The Cuban people are courageous, Mr. Speaker, and they will continue to fight for liberty, for human rights; and we must help them in their struggle for freedom.

#### 21ST CENTURY BUY AMERICA ACT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, I will introduce the 21st Century Buy America Act with Senator CHRIS MURPHY, to modernize decades-old Buy American standards and help create new manufacturing jobs in the United States.

Congress should make sure that American taxpayer dollars are used to buy goods manufactured here at home, not overseas, whenever we can.

Our bill will strengthen existing Buy America standards and make a number of important changes to support our domestic manufacturing base. For example, it will make manufacturers of items in short supply here at home eligible for resources to help them compete against foreign manufacturers for U.S. government contracts.

In addition, this bill increases transparency requirements for agencies that provide waivers, and it increases the domestic content percentage requirement so that, to qualify as American-made, you have to prove that a majority of the materials are actually made right here in America.

Most importantly, this legislation will help grow our manufacturing sector and create new jobs by providing an increased demand for American-made products by the Federal Government.

It is time to bring manufacturing back to America and to support existing manufacturing, and the United States Government should lead by example.

#### VETERANS DESERVE BETTER FROM THE VA

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, not only as a Member of Congress, but as a veteran and former prisoner of war, demanding answers on behalf of my fellow veterans.

Recently, reports surfaced that regional VA employees had secret lists to hide the lengthy wait times for patients, which may have resulted in the loss of lives of some of our veterans. This is unacceptable.

Our men and women in uniform serve their country admirably, risking their lives to keep us safe and protect our